

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Applicant has amended claims 2-5 and added new claims 6-17. Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-17 will be pending, of which claims 1 and 10 are independent claims.

Disclosure Objections

The status of the patent file has been updated on page 1 of the specification. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the Examiner's objection to the specification.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Applicant disagrees. More specifically, Applicant has disclosed measurement of characteristics related to conductance in order to "perform measurement of the contact resistance" See page 13 paragraph 32 to page 17 paragraph 39. As such, it appears that the Examiner's rejection is more appropriately an objection to claims 4 and 5 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Thus, in order to further clarify Applicant's invention, Applicant has amended claims 4-5 and added new claims 6-9. Thus, Applicant requests withdrawal of Examiner's rejection of claims 4-5.

New Claims

Independent claim 10 and dependent claims 11-17 have been added.

Independent claim 10 includes and captures the limitations of independent claim 1 without the need for further searching and, hence, is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests allowance of independent claim 10.

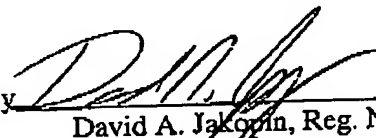
Claims 11-17 depend from and further limit independent claim 10, in a patentable sense and, thus, are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests allowance of claims 11-17.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, and in view of the foregoing, all of the pending claims are believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, s/he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned.

CHARGE STATEMENT: The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees that may be required relative to this application, or credit any overpayment, to our Account 50-2213, Order No. 061450-0304609.

Respectfully submitted
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REPLY TO CUSTOMER NO. 27498